

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

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INFO UESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 4647

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ES

SUBJECT: CEPA MANAGEMENT HANGES

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3474

1. GOES, AUGUST 19, 1976, ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING MANAGEMENT CHANGES IN PORT AUTHORITY (CEPA). ENGINEER HERIBERTO REYES V. WILL MOVE UP FROM HEAD OF CEPA'S AIRPORT DIVISION TO REPLACE LIC. JORGE ROCHAC ZEPEDA AS GENERAL MANAGER OF CEPA. CORONEL MAURICIO AQUILES FUNES, NAVY COMMANDANT WILL REPLACE ENGINEER CERARDO ROBERTO CAMPO LIMA AS MANAGER OF THE PORT OF ACAJUTLA.

2. FUNES, CAMPO LIMA CHANGE WAS SOMEWHAT EXPECTED. CAMPO LIMA AS CEPA OFFICIAL (REPORTED REFTTEL) MOST DISLIKED BY DOCK WORKERS UNION, AND HIS REMOVAL WAS RUPIDLY BECOMING A MAJOR ISSUE IN UNION/MANAGEMENT RELATIONS. NEWSPAPER REPORTS
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INDICATE THAT THIS CHANGE IS VIEWED BY GOES AS SOLUTION TO PORT

LABOR PROBLEMS. PRIVATE SECTOR SOURCES SUPPORT FUNES' NOMINATION STRESSING THAT AS A MILITARY MAN HE PUTS THE UNION ON NOTICE THAT CONTINUED LABOR PROBLEMS COULD RESULT IN THE MILITARY MOVING IN TO TAKE OVER PORT OPERATIONS.

3. REYES/ROCHAT CHAOGEOVER COMES AS SOMEWHAT OF A SURPRISE. ROCHAC IS CONSIDERED TO BE BRIGHT, AND IMAGINATIVE WITH GOOD IDEAS. PRIVATE SECTOR FEELING IS THAT CEPA HAS OUTGROWN ITSELF. CONTROLLING NOT ONLY THE PORTS, BUT ALSO THE AIRPORT AND RAIL SYSTEM, IT HAS BECOME "UNMANAGEABLE". ROCHAC MAY BE A VICTIM OF THE SITUATION. REYES' NOMINATION IS ALSO VIEWED POSITIVELY BY PORT USERS. A CIVIL ENGINEER BY TRAINING, REYES (42), BEFORE SERVING AS AIRPORT DIVISION CHIEF WAS FROM 1966-72 CEPA PLANNING HEAD. ACCORDINGLY, HE HAS WIDE EXPERIENCE IN ALL FACETS OF CEPA ACTIVITIES.

4. WHILE CHANGES SHOULD POSITIVELY AFFECT PORT OPERATIONS, IT STILL REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER REYES CAN FIRST WHIP THE PORT OF ACAJUTLA INTO SHAPE AND, SECOND, SOMEHOW MANAGE CEPA'S VAST INTERESTS. WHILE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS CONFIDENCE IN REYES' ABILITIES, COLONEL FUNES IS MORE OF A QUESTION MARK. OUTSIDE OF WHAT IS PERCEIVED BY THE BUSINESS SECTOR AS HIS POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES IN THE LABOR AREA (PARA 2) AND HIS LIMITED PORT EXPERIENCE (HE ATTENDED A PORT AND CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT COURSE IN THE U.S. IN 1967 AND HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO ACAJUTLA SEVERAL TIMES DURING HIS CARRER), HIS ABILITY TO MANAGE A BUSY PORT SUCH AS ACAJUTLA REMAINS TO BE TESTED.

LUBE ZJY

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